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The University of Dayton

News Release

UD PRESIDENT PERMITS CIA RECRUITMENT, ENDING NEARLY YEAR-LONG DEBATE ON CAMPUS

DAYTON, Ohio, January 12, 1989--Brother Raymond L. Fitz, S.M., president of the University of Dayton, has accepted the recommendation of the University's Academic Senate to permit the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) to continue to recruit on campus but plans to monitor the organization's "structures of accountability" that oversee its covert activities.

The announcement ends a nearly year-long debate about the issue, spurred by a two-and-a-half day sit-in by 33 protesting students in February 1988.

Before announcing the decision this week in a "President's Message" newsletter, Fitz wrote a letter to President-Elect George Bush to share with him the Academic Senate's seven-page recommendation. The letter recognized the importance of the CIA to national security and urged Bush--a former director of the CIA--to "set a moral tone for CIA activity." He sent similar letters to Ohio senators John Glenn and Howard Metzenbaum, both of whom serve on the Senate intelligence committee, and state representative Tony Hall, with whom he plans to meet to discuss the issue of CIA accountability.

"While it is difficult to carry out a reliable and unbiased evaluation of the CIA, enough is known, in my judgment, to raise serious questions about the ethics of past behavior of some of the CIA employees and some CIA leadership. As the Academic Senate pointed out, there are serious moral questions raised by the covert activities of the CIA," Fitz said. "To me, our campus debate has shown that more discussion is necessary with our government leaders on the accountability structures for the CIA."

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On Dec. 2, the Academic Senate, a policy-making group that consists of the Provost, deans and elected faculty and students, voted overwhelmingly 23-2 to support CIA recruitment, noting the need to improve accountability. "We do not believe that the CIA is systemically flawed so that it consistently and regularly produces immoral conduct regardless of the persons appointed to the agency," Academic Senators wrote in their recommendation. "Such a judgment, in our opinion, is far too sweeping to be substantiated by what we have learned. On the other hand, we believe that it is naive to conclude that the CIA suffers only on occasion from individual initiatives that are ethically wrong. Since 1947, the CIA has operated under the guidance of presidents and directors who employed considerably different criteria to judge when and what sort of covert activity was necessary. And only in 1980 were more exacting, but still arguably inadequate, structures of accountability put into place."

UD's Student Government Association (SGA) also favored continued CIA recruitment at UD. On Dec. 1, SGA voted 16-9 in favor of CIA recruitment with the request that on-campus CIA educational activities continue.

Less than a month earlier, 53 UD students--nearly twice as many as those who protested the agency's recruiting efforts that day--signed up for interviews with CIA recruiters. The 13 selected for job interviews walked through a peaceful picket line to enter the Placement Office. In the meantime, a two-month CIA speakers' series continued, sparking a dialogue about the appropriateness of CIA recruitment in light of Catholic teaching and values. The series, which ended in mid-November, brought former CIA director Stansfield Turner, former CIA agent Philip Agee, well-known theologians and other experts to campus to answer questions about moral issues and the CIA.

That type of dialogue is expected to continue as Fitz has asked William C. Schuerman, vice president for student development and dean of students, to

review the University's Distinguished Speakers Series and speakers policy and make recommendations about how they can be improved "to enhance the quality of public moral discourse" on campus.

Under UD's CIA recruitment policy, the Placement Office's file on the CIA will be expanded to include video tapes of UD's CIA lecture series, papers about the CIA written by members of the University community during the debate and other written statements that can be submitted at any time to the Executive Committee of the Academic Senate.

According to the Academic Senate, "this recommendation underscores the obligation of the University community, and especially of those students considering employment in the CIA, to educate themselves if they are to make a morally informed personal decision on the matter."

UD's Provost, Brother Joseph W. Stander, S.M., also conducted a fall survey of CIA recruitment on college campuses around the country. Of the 37 universities that responded, 33 allow CIA recruitment. The CIA had not expressed interest in recruiting at the remaining four. Ten of the institutions (University at Albany, Brandeis University, Brown University, Creighton University, University of Iowa, University of Massachusetts, Santa Clara University, University of Wisconsin-Madison, University of Minnesota and University of Vermont) have undergone a review process, which resulted in allowing CIA recruitment on campus.

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EDITOR'S NOTE: The University of Dayton is Ohio's largest independent university and the nation's ninth largest Catholic university. Approximately 11,000 graduate and undergraduate students currently attend UD. For further information, contact Teri Rizvi at (513) 229-3241.

UD ARTS SERIES PERFORMER TO VISIT ST. VINCENT HOTEL FOR HOMELESS

Stephanie Jutt, the next performer in the University of Dayton Arts Series, will be visiting St. Vincent Hotel on Wednesday, Nov. 2. A flutist, she will perform for guests at the hotel for the homeless following their supper hour. The performance is expected to begin at approximately 7:30 p.m. "She does this everywhere she goes," said Maureen Masters, chairperson of the UD Arts Series. "She really believes that art can communicate something that other kinds of communication cannot." As part of the UD Arts Series, Jutt will perform on Thursday, Nov. 3 at 8 p.m. at Boll Theatre in Kennedy Union on campus.

CIA LECTURE SERIES TO CONTINUE WITH WILLIAM V. O'BRIEN ADDRESS

William V. O'Brien, professor of government at Georgetown University, will speak at the University of Dayton on Wednesday, Nov. 2 at 8 p.m. in the Kennedy Union Ballroom on campus. O'Brien's principal fields are international law and relations, with emphasis on the legal and moral issues of war. He has served on the consulting faculty of the U.S. Army War College and was a consultant for the National Conference of Catholic Bishops' Committee on War and Peace. The author of numerous publications, he recently co-edited "The Nuclear Dilemma and the Just War Tradition."

The CIA lecture series was designed to spark campus-wide dialogue on the issue of CIA recruitment. O'Brien's presentation is free and open to the public. Prior to his presentation, he will be available for media interviews from 7 to 7:30 p.m. in the Kennedy Union Art Gallery.

FRATERNITY BASKETBALL TOURNAMENT WILL BENEFIT KIDNEY FOUNDATION

Phi Sigma Kappa, a University of Dayton fraternity, is sponsoring a "three-on-three" basketball tournament on Saturday, Nov. 5 at the UD Fieldhouse. The tournament will begin at 1 p.m., with continuous games scheduled to begin about every 30 minutes. Approximately 20 teams will be vying for donated prizes, and a portion of the proceeds from the tournament will go to the National Kidney Foundation. For more information, call Anthony Chan at 229-2409.

URBAN PLUNGE RETREAT SCHEDULED AT UNIVERSITY OF DAYTON

Approximately 15 University of Dayton students will participate in an Urban Plunge Retreat weekend Nov. 4-6. The event, sponsored by Campus Ministry, is designed to help raise students' awareness of poverty and how it affects the lives of people in the Dayton area. They will also become aware of persons working to improve conditions. The group of students will visit two nursing homes, St. Vincent's Hotel for the homeless, the Boys and Girls Clubs, the Central Mission Baptist Church Center and Soup Kitchen, a battered women's shelter and the city jail. They will stay at Assumption Retreat Center in Dayton Friday and Saturday night. For further information, call Patti Trausch at 229-3339.